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## Landmark Report (Vol. 3, no. 3)

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# LANDMARK REPORT

Vol.3 No.3 of Bowling Green & Warren County Sept 1982



## BAKER HILL DESTROYED

Baker Hill, once the home of John Brown Helm, was destroyed by fire Saturday, August 28. Kinderhook was the name given by Helm to his house, built in the early 1840's, in honor of President Van Buren's home. As State Commissioner of Internal Improvement, he supervised construction of locks and dams on local rivers that made navigation possible from the Ohio River to Bowling Green. This river traffic was very important to the local economy allowing the development of commerce and industry. In 1847, this house was sold to Larkin Baker and remained in that family until 1884.

Because this hill is located at the confluence of all major traffic arteries into Bowling Green, General Buckner chose this site to build one of nine fortifications surrounding the town in late 1861. Union troops arrived early in 1862 as the last of the Confederates were withdrawing. After a short bombardment on the town from Baker Hill, the Union abandoned the hill once they could cross the river. The house was also used as a hospital at this time because of a high incidence of illness among troops in both armies.

Since that time, the house has changed owners numerous times. Previous owners have included Atwood Hobson, Charles Motley and L.D. Rasdall. Most recently, the structure had been the second franchise of Claudia Sanders Dinner House which opened in 1975. Baker Hill had been vacant since a fire seriously damaged the building in 1978.

The Landmark Association regretfully acknowledges the loss of yet another of our community's cultural resources.

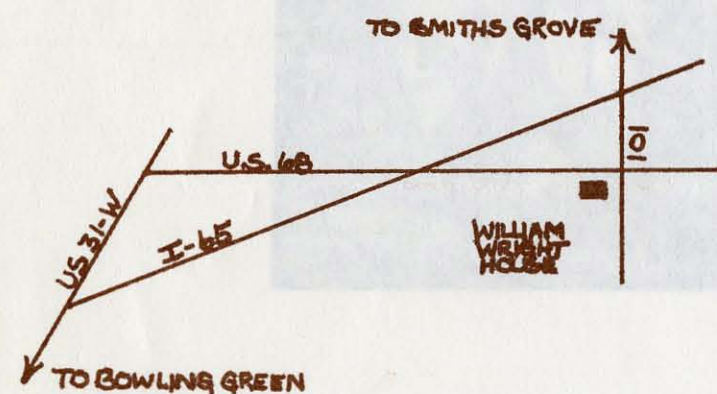


## LANDMARK MEETING

Landmark members and their guests are invited to attend our next monthly meeting to be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kirby on Wednesday, September 22 at 7:30 p.m. Located near Smiths Grove at the intersection of U.S. 68 and Route 101, the Wright House is a brick, two story, Federal style I-house with a two story "ell" addition, built in 1831 by William Wright. After William's death in 1845, his wife, Mary, ran a tavern in the home until the late 1860's.

Dr. Albert Petersen, Department of Geography and Geology, WKU, will present a slide program concerning folk housing found in Mennonite communities in Allen and Logan counties.

Anyone wanting to share a ride to Smiths Grove will meet at the City Parking Lot behind Western Auto at 7:00 p.m.



## NEW LANDMARK MEMBERS

A number of new members have joined the Landmark Association since last month. Landmark would like to welcome the following to the organization. We thank you for your support and look forward to your participation.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Albin  
Mary Evelyn Banks  
Ron Ford  
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Hale  
Mr. and Mrs. Rolla Jefferson  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lewis  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marko  
Mrs. Carl P. McNally  
Dr. and Mrs. Wallace Nave  
Dr. and Mrs. Neal F. Ransdell  
Dr. and Mrs. L.O. Toomey  
Wilma Walz  
Mr. and Mrs. David Wiseman  
Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Yeoman

Jean Thomason has been appointed by Governor Brown to serve on the Kentucky Heritage Council for a two year term. The Kentucky Heritage Council is the governing board for the State Historic Preservation Office and directs preservation policy for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Jean helped establish the Landmark Association in 1976 and has served on the Board of Directors since that time, including two terms as President in 1979-80 and 1980-81. Jean is currently serving a four year term on the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board, having been appointed in 1981. This review board is responsible for reviewing individual and multiple resource nominations to the National Register from throughout the state.

Landmark congratulates Jean for her interest and efforts in historic preservation at the state level in addition to her efforts on the community level.

## MUSEUM GRANT

The Kentucky Museum has been awarded a \$41,000 grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities for a major exhibit entitled "Growing Up Victorian: A Kentucky Childhood." The exhibit will combine room settings, objects, photographs and library materials to trace the path of a fictional 19th century child from infancy to adulthood. The exhibit's seven sections will focus on home and family, school, downtown and other environments the child would have encountered as she grew. Exhibit labels, visitor-operated games and a slide/sound program will identify the ideas and values that shaped Victorian childhood and influenced our world today. "Growing Up Victorian" will open in April, 1983.

For further information, contact Vicky Middleswarth-Kohn, The Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101, (502) 745-2592.

The National Trust holds an annual conference each year to bring together supporters from all walks of preservation--commercial revitalization, neighborhoods, maritime and historic districts--to discuss mutual interests, share knowledge and to keep up with current techniques in the field. This year's conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Louisville October 6-10.

This year, for the first time, in order to assist in arriving at solutions to the management and fundraising challenges that face us, this knowledge will be brought together into nine topic tracks. This will enable the needs of the participants to be served in a more timely manner through detailed presentations on specific issues with sound and applicable solutions from leading experts in the field. The nine subjects below will be covered in six 1½ hour sessions for a total of nine hours per topic:

- \* FUND RAISING
- \* PRESERVATION AND THE NEW FEDERALISM
- \* EDUCATION AND MARITIME PRESERVATION
- \* REAL ESTATE
- \* MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION
- \* HISTORIC DISTRICTS
- \* HISTORIC PROPERTIES
- \* NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION
- \* RURAL CONSERVATION

The conference starts with the assumption that buildings are historically, architecturally and aesthetically worth preserving as a part of our national heritage. Emphasis will be placed on how to manage the preservation network and its programs and how to support them with fresh resources of income so that we can continue to be effective in our cities, states and countryside. It is this positive aspect of survival together that has encouraged the development of this totally new conference format with its focus on nine major topics of interest to preservationists.

Several participants from Bowling Green will be speaking at the conference. Dick Pfefferkorn, Executive Director of the Landmark Association, will discuss Landmark's participation in Kentucky's Main Street program as part of the Main Street Revitalization track. Riley Handy, Department Head of the Kentucky Library and Museum, Western Kentucky University, will speak on the economics of historic house museums as part of the Historic Properties track. Dr. Jay Anderson, Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies, Western Kentucky University, will also speak as part of the Historic Properties track, discussing the unique nature of historic house museums.

This annual conference promises to be an excellent forum for learning about historic preservation and a unique opportunity to meet others involved in community improvement.

## calendar of events

- Sept. 18: "Pioneer" Workshop  
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Kentucky Museum
- Sept. 18: Childfest  
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Fountain Park
- Sept. 21: BG-Warren Co. History Class  
7-9 p.m. Kentucky Library
- Sept. 22: Concert in the Park  
The Rovin' Ramblers  
12 Noon Fountain Park
- Sept. 22: LANDMARK MONTHLY MEETING  
7:30 p.m. Mr. & Mrs. Kirby's House
- Sept. 25: Monopoly Day  
12:30-3 p.m. Kentucky Museum
- Sept. 28: BG-Warren Co. History Class  
7-9 p.m. Kentucky Library
- Sept. 29: Concert in the Park  
Winter Wheat  
12 Noon Fountain Park
- Oct. 4-5: Kentucky Association of Museums  
Conference Pleasant Hill, Ky.
- Oct. 5: BG-Warren Co. History Class  
7-9 p.m. Kentucky Library
- Oct. 6-10: NATIONAL TRUST CONFERENCE  
Hyatt Regency Louisville
- Oct. 20: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
7:30 p.m. Landmark office
- Oct. 27: LANDMARK MONTHLY MEETING  
7:30 p.m. (location to be announced)
- Tue. & Sat. through Oct.:  
Farmers' Market  
7:30 a.m. City Parking Lot
- Nov. 13: CPC Conference  
9 a.m. Elizabethtown, Ky.



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Bowling Green, Ky. 42101

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## CPC CHALLENGE GRANT

A \$13,000 Challenge Grant has been awarded to the Commonwealth Preservation Council by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The CPC is a statewide historic preservation group composed of individuals and preservation organizations with an interest in unifying preservation efforts across the state.

Mr. Henry Durham (Greensburg), chairman of the Fundraising Committee, will investigate various methods of securing the CPC's portion of the one-to-one match. Grant monies will be used to augment and expand CPC's current program of work. Expansion will include hiring an Executive Director, additional workshops and seminars, preservation advocacy, membership development, fundraising and public relations.

## CPC CONFERENCE

Elizabethtown will be the location of a conference titled "Challenge of the 80's: Preserving Kentucky's Heritage." This conference, sponsored by the Commonwealth Council and the Historical Confederation of Kentucky, will begin at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, November 13, 1982 at the James R. Pritchard Community Center in Elizabethtown.

Registration will be \$10 and includes conference materials, lunch and a tour. A panel discussion will feature Blanch Cody, Executive Secretary, Congress of Illinois Historical Societies and Museums and Gerald George, Executive Director, American Association of State and Local History.

A brief CPC meeting will be held at the Brown-Pusey House at 3:30 following the conference.